

## **New DUN complex built for the future**

Friday, November 6th, 2009 By Puvaneswary Devindran

GRAND CHAMBERS: The grand chambers where this Monday's sitting will be held.— Photo by Kong Ju Liong

KUCHING: Rest assured that the new State Legislative Assembly (DUN) Complex can cope with additional number of assemblymen should there be re-delineation exercises in the future, said DUN Speaker Dato Sri Mohd Asfia Awang Nassar.

Addressing reporters during a briefing at the new complex yesterday, Asfia said one of the state government's aims to have this new complex was to ensure that there would be space for new assemblymen in future if new constituencies were created.

"We now have a complex which can cater to additional number of assemblymen and this complex is also designed to allow expansion if required in future," he said, adding the complex chambers could seat up to 108 members. Presently, the state has 71 DUN members.

Asfia explained that new constituencies were created to better serve the growing population although the task was not an easy process because it had to get the green light from parliament and DUN before it could done.

According to him, the Election Commission normally reviews the borders of the constituencies every eight years to determine whether a re-delineation exercise is required.

The last time Sarawak went through such exercise was before the 2006 State election, producing the three new parliamentary constituencies of Igan, Limbang and Sibuti.

Meanwhile, he said the new complex proudly signified the confluence of cultures present in the state.

Earlier on, Asfia briefed members of the media about the history of DUN sittings in Sarawak and what the new complex had to offer.

Valued at RM296.5 million, the new DUN complex is expected to fulfill the demands of the elected representatives who have grown in number and their increased workload over the years.

The new chamber is located at the eighth floor with a height (from the floor to the highest peak) of 27.7 metres, a diameter of 30.9 metres and a total area of 760 square metres.

It also has a capacity of 142 seats for civil servants - 86 in the VIP gallery and 106 in the public gallery.

There are nine floors in the new building of 114 metres high with a total floor space of 47,747 square metres and 50-metre wide umbrella-shaped roof to cap the building. Its design is based on a nine-pointed star.

It also has a 'Lapau' ceremonial hall, capable of accommodating 300 people as well as an auditorium of similar capacity. The building is designed to be used for 100 years and includes a state banquet hall with a capacity of 1,000 people, a car park for 315 vehicles as well as a parade ground, all spread within a 172-acre site.